

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

18 September 1984

National Intelligence Council

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Herbert E. Meyer, Vice Chairman
National Intelligence Council

SUBJECT: The Ogarkov Episode

1. This memo by [] while long and highly speculative, presents a compelling case that the Ogarkov episode is a reflection of the struggle among Soviet leaders over the correct allocation of resources.

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2. As [] sees it, Ogarkov was chief spokesman for the view that more resources need to be allocated to the military if the armed forces are to achieve their assigned mission in the face of the US defensive build-up. The Party, despite internal differences among key Politburo members, remains agreed that such an allocation cannot be allowed without serious risk of upheaval. This struggle is now the driving force behind Soviet actions and policies.

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3. [] thesis rests on the assumption that the Soviet economy is failing, and that the battle over resource-allocation is inevitable and, ultimately, unresolvable. What matters, then, is not that Ogarkov lost, but that he fought. It means the battle has been joined at the highest levels, with no end in sight or, perhaps, no end possible short of a decisive victory for one faction or the other.

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4. [] is deeply concerned that the assumption on which his thesis rests is not supported by Intelligence Community analysis. As you know, the thrust of Intelligence Community analysis is that the Soviet economy, while troubled, continues to grow at a rate that is modest yet high enough to assure adequate slices of a steadily expanding pie to the military and

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civilian sectors. If Harry is correct, and the Intelligence Community wrong, our analysis of the pressures on Soviet leaders will become increasingly skewed. Thus a danger that the gap will widen between reality and our future interpretations of Soviet activity--and, ultimately, our projections of Soviet behavior.

Hem

Herbert E. Meyer

Attachment: a/s

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